

CENTER



POINT

“The Center of the State”

Police Chief Feels Lucky to Spend A Lifetime Doing What He Loves

Police Chief **Rickey Wilson** ended up working for the Asheboro Police Department by accident. He knew a police officer who was always pestering him to ride along. To get the guy off his back, **Rickey** agreed to go with him one Saturday night. He thought he would be bored to death, but it was one of the most exciting nights of his life. He asked if he could ride along again the next night. And a career was born.

Growing up on Old Liberty Road, **Rickey** went to school at the old Balfour Elementary, and North Asheboro Junior High. While in high school, he was on the football and wrestling teams. But his true love was automobiles, and after graduating from Asheboro High in 1977, he got a job in the Parts Department at Vestal Ford.

After he got bitten by the law enforcement bug, **Rickey** went to then-Police **Chief JD Bulla** and asked if the chief would sponsor him to go to school for Basic Law Enforcement Training. **Chief Bulla** agreed, and **Rickey** graduated from the very first BLET class at RCC. A spot came open in the Police Department in June 1981, and **Rickey** was hired to walk the beat downtown. He was sort of a shy fellow, but walking the beat, he had to mingle with all types, and it helped **Rickey** develop the out-going personality that he has today. He says it was the best job he ever had, but he just didn't know it at the time. All the shopkeepers downtown looked after him and gave him plenty of food whenever he passed by. He caught 11 people trying to break in businesses during those two years.

Rickey finally got in a patrol car in 1983, and 6 years later became a detective. He really enjoyed the thinking process involved in being a detective and the thrill that came from solving cases. In 1991, **Rickey** was promoted to Sergeant, and served in the Detective Division and Patrol. On January 1, 2000, he was promoted to Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, **Rickey** had always felt the Police Department owed it to the citizens to develop a SWAT Team that could come in and handle high pressure situations. So, it took **Rickey** about 9 months to write the guidelines, select the uniforms, the men, the weapons, and get the SWAT Team up and running. The vehicle that is used was donated by Randolph Hospital, and all of the equipment was either donated or purchased with drug

seizure money. All the training and organizational work has definitely paid off over the years with stand-offs that have resulted in peaceful endings because of the talents of our SWAT Team.

It was also during this time that **Rickey** went to RCC at night to get his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, graduating in 2001, and then went on to get his Bachelor's Degree from Gardner-Webb University in 2009.

In 2001, **Rickey** was promoted to Captain over the Detective Division. He also served as the Patrol Captain and Administrative Services Captain. He was promoted to Police Major in 2008, where he loved working with his old friend, **Gary Mason**, and then became Chief in February of 2009.

As Chief, **Rickey** is most proud of the changes he has made to improve the lives of his employees, such as creating permanent shifts for the officers so they don't have to switch back and forth from nights to days, making sure the department has the latest and best equipment, and the creation of Neighborhood Watch Programs around the city. He's also very proud that we now have an Explorer's Post for high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Rickey and his wife, April, have 3 children, Samuel (14), Caroline (9), and Wesley (7). He keeps pretty busy going to ballgames, and music and dance recitals, but he still loves to fish whenever he gets a chance, and has never lost his love for cars. In fact, he now owns and has remodeled 1941 and 1955 Ford Pickup Trucks, a 1955 Ford Panel Truck, and has helped his son remodel a 1965 Ford Mustang.

Rickey shared he has always been amazed at how caring city employees are for each other, and how much it feels like we are all one big family. He says he feels blessed to be just a “plain old Asheboro country boy” who got lucky and sort of fell into a career that he loves so much. Most people would argue that it's the citizens of Asheboro and his fellow employees who have been the lucky ones to have **Rickey** share his incredible talents with us for over 31 years, and still counting.



December Birthdays

Josh Allred	Chris Hoover
Adam Baird	Ron Horrell
Bill Barton	David Kennedy
Tommy Beane	Destinee Martin
Jim Briles	Bobby McDowell
Greg Brooks	Carlos Morales
Johnie Brown	Reynolds Neely
DJ Chriscoe	Ralph Norton
Jerry Lee Crabtree	Justin Pritchard
Martin Crisco	Michael Rhoney
Micheal Desrosiers	David Smith
Quinn Dunn	Jim Smith (Police)
Jeremy Faulkner	Chuckie Spencer
Anthony Floyd	Todd Stout
Lupe Gonzalez	Kermit Williamson
Phillip Hall	Matthew Williamson
Barry Hamilton	Brad Wilson



Promotions

Fleet Maintenance

Robert Potts—Parts and Service Technician II

Street

Lee Stroud—Street Technician III



Holiday Food Drive Please help us collect for Christians United Outreach by donating food items. If you would like to contribute to the food drive, simply drop off non-perishable items in boxes designated in each department. City Hall and Public Works will have a donation box in the front entrance of the building. The food drive will run through December 20. One can at a time, we can make a difference.

Happy Retirement

We offer our best wishes to **Jim Smith** (Fire) on his retirement on November 30, with 41 years of service. At the time of his retirement, **Jim** served as the Fire Chief.



Marriage We offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes to **Doug Kinney** (Environmental Services), and his new bride, Natalie Renee Fogleman.

The couple was married on October 19.

December Service Anniversary

25 Years

Johnie Brown—Street

2012 Employee Golf Tournament Results

1st Place: Joey Bunting, Johnny Murray, Lee Stroud, Forrest Hardwick (Shot 32) (-3)

2nd Place: Joe Pecorella, Tim Marley, Tracey Garnett, Dean Glaze (Shot 36) (+1)

3rd Place: Travis Phillips, Travis Joyce, Mike Wiseman, Tommy Joyce (Shot 39) (+4)

Closest to the hole #5 and #7: Forrest Hardwick

Holiday Closings

City offices will be closed on Monday, December 24; Tuesday, December 25, and Wednesday, December 26.



2012 United Way Campaign

The United Way Campaign was again a great success! This year the City of Asheboro employees pledged \$33,882.36.

Thanks to everyone who gave! City prize winners were:

\$100 Wal-Mart Card— **Pam Morgan**

\$100 BP Gas Card— **Greg Routh**

\$50 Wal-Mart Cards— **JT Cox, Celia Craven, and Chris Hoover.**

\$50 BP Gas Cards— **Derrick Britt, Michele Dawes, and Michael Leonard.**

Birthday Off Winners—**Karen Lovings, Travis Phillips, Michael Rhoney, Rusty Turner, and Mark Wardlaw.**

Welcome to Our New Employee

Police

Daniel Shropshire—Police Officer I (Police)

Tips for Managing Electronic Records

1. One of the most important things you can do to preserve your files is organize them early and often.
2. Every time you name a new file, consider whether your successor will be able to understand what is in the file without having to open it.
3. When you name a file, give it a permanent name. Don't name it "draft1.doc" and promise yourself that you will come back and rename it later.
4. Expect files to last no more than 3-5 years. Longer than that, and you should plan to update file formats and transfer to new hardware.
5. Don't let your email get out of control. Before you leave the office every day, make sure that your email inbox looks like the mailbox at your front door: empty.
6. Backing up a file isn't the same as preserving it. You may have backed up the file, but will you have the software to access it several years down the line?
7. Save word processing documents that need to be kept for more than 3-5 years as PDF/A.
8. Save images that need to be kept for more than 3-5 years as TIFF or JPEG2000.
9. Save audio that needs to be kept for more than 3-5 years as WAVE or BWF.
10. CDs are good for access, but not for preservation. The average lifespan of a CD is just a few years.
11. Get to know your records retention schedule (if you don't know about it, ask your supervisor). It tells you about which records need to be retained and for how long. It's very likely you are keeping records unnecessarily long.
12. Know which networks, servers, and computers are backed up and what aren't. You may be surprised what you learn.
13. If you keep records in cloud storage, also keep local copies. Check the policies of the cloud storage service provider: do you have access to download your data for free?
14. Sometimes it's better to save records on paper or microfilm, especially if your office doesn't feel confident in its ability to maintain computer files over the long-term.
15. When working on drafts, include version number, your initials, and the date in the file name: air_quality_report_draft_v1_JD_20121010.docx

New Arrival!!!

- Congratulations and best wishes to **Robbie Shortridge**, (Water Maintenance), and his wife, Megan, on the birth of their new baby girl, Ivy Rae, born on November 16.

